

or acquired by a Federal agency, regardless of physical form or characteristics, is controlled by this part if any of the following conditions are met:

(a) The materials are created or received in the course of business and contain information related to the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other official activities of the agency. Also included is documentation of oral exchanges such as telephone conversations and meetings during which policy was discussed or formulated or other significant activities of the agency were planned, discussed, or transacted.

(b) The creation, retention, or disposition of the materials is mandated by statute or agency or other Federal regulations, directives, policies, or procedures.

(c) The materials are controlled, maintained, preserved, processed, filed, or otherwise handled following established agency procedures for records.

(d) The material contains unique information, such as substantive annotations, including drafts, transmittal sheets, and final documents or other materials circulated or made available to employees other than the creator for official purposes, such as approval, comment, action, recommendation, follow-up, or to keep agency staff informed regarding agency business.

(e) The material was created or received on an electronic mail system and it meets the definition of record. For specific instructions on the disposition of records created or received on electronic mail systems, see 36 CFR 1234.32.

[55 FR 27428, July 2, 1990, as amended at 60 FR 44640, Aug. 28, 1995]

Subpart A—Records Disposition Programs

§ 1228.10 Authority.

The head of each agency (in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2904, 3102, and 3301) is required to establish and maintain a records disposition program to ensure efficient, prompt, and orderly reduction in the quantity of records and to provide for the proper maintenance of

records designated as permanent by NARA.

[55 FR 27428, July 2, 1990]

§ 1228.12 Basic elements of disposition programs.

The primary steps in managing a records disposition program are given below. Details of each element are contained in the NARA records management handbook, Disposition of Federal Records (http://www.archives.gov/records_management/publications/disposition_of_federal_records/index.html).

(a) Issue a program directive assigning authorities and responsibilities for records disposition activities in the agency and keep that directive up to date.

(b) Develop, implement, and maintain an accurate, current, and comprehensive records schedule.

(c) Train all agency personnel taking part in the agency's records disposition activities.

(d) Publicize the program to make all agency employees aware of their records disposition responsibilities.

(e) Evaluate the results of the program to ensure adequacy, effectiveness, and efficiency.

[55 FR 27428, July 2, 1990, as amended at 66 FR 27027, May 16, 2001; 67 FR 43253, June 27, 2002]

Subpart B—Scheduling Records

SOURCE: 55 FR 27429, July 2, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1228.20 Authorities.

(a) The head of each agency shall direct the creation and preservation of records containing accurate and complete documentation of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, and essential transactions of the agency (44 U.S.C. 3101). The National Archives and Records Administration shall establish standards for the retention of those records having continuing value, and assist Federal agencies in applying the standards to records in their custody (44 U.S.C. 2905).

(b) No Federal records shall be destroyed or otherwise alienated from

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the Government except in accordance with procedures described in this part 1228 (44 U.S.C. 3314).

§ 1228.22 Developing records schedules.

The primary steps in developing agency records schedules are given below. Details in each step are contained in the NARA records management handbook, *Disposition of Federal Records* (http://www.archives.gov/records_management/publications/disposition_of_federal_records/index.html). Ultimately, all records of an agency must be scheduled, but they need not all be scheduled at the same time. An agency may schedule the records of one function, program or organizational element at a time.

(a) Determine the functions and activities documented by the records to be scheduled.

(b) Prepare an inventory of the records including a description of their medium, location, volume, inclusive dates, informational content and use.

(c) Evaluate the period of time the agency needs each records series or system by reference to its uses and value to agency operations or legal obligations.

(d) Based on agency need, develop specific recommended retention and disposition instructions for each records series or each part of an automated information system, including file breaks, retention periods for temporary records, transfer periods for permanent records, and instructions for the transfer of records to an approved records storage facility when appropriate.

(e) Assemble into a draft schedule the descriptions and recommended disposition instructions for logical blocks of records, i.e., entire agency, organizational component, or functional area.

(f) Obtain approval of the records schedules from NARA (and from the General Accounting Office, when so required under title 8 of the GAO "Policy and Procedures Manual for the Guidance of Federal Agencies").

[45 FR 5705, Jan. 24, 1980. Redesignated at 50 FR 15723, Apr. 19, 1985, as amended at 64 FR 67665, Dec. 2, 1999; 66 FR 27027, May 16, 2001; 67 FR 43253, June 27, 2002]

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§ 1228.24 Formulation of agency records schedules.

(a) *General.* Agency records schedules approved by the Archivist of the United States specify the disposition for agency records. Records of continuing (permanent) value will be scheduled for retention and immediate or eventual transfer to the legal custody of NARA. All other records will be scheduled for destruction or donation after a specific period of time based on administrative, fiscal, and legal values.

(b) *Characteristics of schedules.* Though records disposition authority may be requested from NARA on a program-by-program, function-by-function, or office-by-office basis, all agency records must be scheduled. Schedules must follow the guidelines provided below:

(1) Schedules shall identify and describe clearly each series or system and shall contain disposition instructions that can be readily applied. (Additional information is required for permanent records as specified in §1228.28(b).) Schedules must be prepared so that each office will have standing instructions detailing the disposal, transfer, or retention of records.

(2) SF 115s shall include only new records not covered by the General Records Schedules (GRS) (see subpart C), deviations from the GRS (see §1228.42), or previously scheduled records requiring changes in retention periods or substantive changes in description.

(3) All schedules shall take into account the physical organization of records or the filing system so that disposal or transfer can be handled in blocks.

(4) The disposition of nonrecord materials is controlled by instructions in the agency's printed or published records disposition manual. These instructions do not require NARA approval. Such items shall not be included on SF 115s. Non-record materials, such as extra copies of documents preserved solely for reference, and stocks of processed documents, and personal materials shall be maintained separately from official agency files to aid in records disposition.

(c) *Provisions of schedules.* Records schedules shall provide for: